

# Contents

<b>List of Figures.....</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>List of Tables.....</b>	<b>xix</b>
<b>Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>xxi</b>
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. The research landscape.....	1
1.2. Geographical and chronological boundaries.....	1
1.3. Large-scale data and its boundaries.....	3
1.4. Geological factors in bone preservation.....	4
1.5. Aims and objectives .....	4
1.6. Structure of the work.....	4
<b>2. History of Research and Theoretical Themes.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1. Introduction .....	7
2.2. Previous research .....	7
2.2.1. Large-scale burial reviews .....	7
2.2.2. Previous research on pit burials.....	7
2.2.3. The excarnation debate.....	8
2.3. Mortuary theory —key concepts.....	9
2.3.1. Defining burial.....	9
2.3.2. Defining ritual .....	9
2.3.3. Identity .....	10
2.3.4. Death and society .....	10
2.3.5. Change and transformation .....	11
2.3.6. Liminality, and the body as object.....	11
2.4. Conclusions .....	12
<b>3. Materials and Methodologies.....</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1. Introduction .....	13
3.2. Material .....	13
3.2.1. Total data .....	14
3.2.2. Inhumations .....	14
3.2.3. Disarticulated remains.....	15
3.2.4. Articulated and semi-articulated bones.....	15
3.2.5. Data limitations .....	15
3.2.6. The ‘invisible dead’ —other considerations.....	15
3.3. Archaeological data methods .....	17
3.3.1. Coding .....	18
3.3.2. Site conglomerations .....	18
3.3.3. Data presentation.....	18
3.3.4 Disarticulated remains —data recording.....	18
3.4. Osteological methodology and recording standards .....	19
3.4.1. Preservation .....	19
3.4.2. Age estimation.....	19
3.4.3. Sex estimation .....	19
3.4.4. Stature estimation .....	20
3.5. Common palaeopathologies —skeletal.....	20
3.5.1. Cribra orbitalia / Porotic hyperostosis.....	20
3.5.2. Osteoarthritis .....	20
3.5.3. Infection / Periosteal new bone .....	20
3.5.4. Schmorl’s nodes .....	20
3.5.5. Trauma.....	21

3.6. Common palaeopathologies —Dental .....	21
3.6.1. Calculus .....	21
3.6.2. Caries .....	21
3.6.3. Periodontal disease .....	21
3.6.4. Periapical cavities .....	21
3.6.5. Antemortem tooth loss .....	21
3.6.6. Linear enamel hypoplasia (LEH) .....	22
3.7. Macroscopic taphonomy methodology .....	22
3.7.1. Weathering .....	22
3.7.2. Gnawing .....	22
3.7.3. Trampling .....	22
3.7.4. Polish / Abrasion .....	22
3.7.5. Cut and chop marks .....	23
3.7.6. Perimortem fractures .....	23
3.8. Conclusion .....	23
<b>4. Results 1 —Early Iron Age Inhumations .....</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1. Introduction .....	25
4.2. Geographic distribution .....	25
4.3. Chronology .....	25
4.4. Site type .....	27
4.5. Depositional context .....	31
4.5.1. Pit burials .....	31
4.5.2. Grave burials .....	32
4.5.3. Ditch burial .....	33
4.5.4. Other contexts .....	33
4.6. Burial position .....	33
4.6.1. Extended inhumations .....	33
4.6.2. Crouched and flexed inhumations .....	35
4.6.3. Other positions .....	35
4.7. Orientation .....	35
4.8. Facing direction .....	36
4.9. Burial accompaniments .....	36
4.9.1. Pottery .....	37
4.9.2. Personal ornaments .....	37
4.9.3. Multiple associated goods/remains .....	38
4.9.4. Material in other fills .....	38
4.9.5. Other inclusions .....	39
4.10. Age .....	40
4.10.1. Age and burial context .....	41
4.10.2. Age and grave goods .....	41
4.10.3. Age and sex .....	41
4.11. Sex .....	41
4.11.1. Sex and location .....	42
4.11.2. Sex and burial context .....	42
4.11.3. Sex and position / orientation .....	42
4.11.4. Sex and grave goods .....	42
4.12. Conclusions .....	42
<b>5. Results 2— Middle Iron Age Inhumations .....</b>	<b>45</b>
5.1. Geographic distribution .....	45
5.2. Chronology .....	45
5.3. Site type .....	47
5.4. Depositional context .....	50
5.4.1. Pit burials .....	50
5.4.2. Grave burials .....	51
5.4.3. Ditch burials .....	53
5.4.4. House burials .....	53
5.4.5. Burial enclosures .....	53

5.4.6. Double burials .....	55
5.4.7. Other.....	55
5.5. Burial position.....	56
5.5.1. Extended inhumations .....	57
5.5.2. Crouched and flexed inhumations .....	58
5.5.3. Other positions .....	60
5.6. Orientation.....	60
5.7. Facing direction.....	62
5.8. Burial accompaniments.....	62
5.8.1. Animal bone .....	63
5.8.2. Pottery .....	63
5.8.3. Personal ornaments.....	63
5.8.4. Multiple associated goods .....	63
5.8.5. Material in other fills .....	64
5.8.6. Other.....	65
5.9. Age .....	65
5.9.1. Age and burial context.....	65
5.9.2. Age and grave goods .....	67
5.9.3. Age and sex .....	67
5.10. Sex.....	67
5.10.1. Sex and burial context.....	67
5.10.2. Sex and position/orientation.....	68
5.10.3. Sex and grave goods.....	68
5.11. Conclusions .....	70
<b>6. Results 3 —Late Iron Age–Conquest Period.....</b>	<b>71</b>
6.1. Geographic distribution of sites and burials.....	71
6.2. Chronology.....	71
6.3. Site type.....	74
6.3.1. Cemeteries .....	76
6.3.2. Settlements .....	76
6.3.3. Hillforts/ringworks .....	76
6.3.4. Isolated burials .....	76
6.3.5. Mortuary landscapes.....	76
6.3.6. Other.....	78
6.4. Depositional context.....	78
6.4.1. Grave burials .....	78
6.4.2. Pit burial .....	79
6.4.3. Ditch burial.....	79
6.4.4. Multiple burials .....	79
6.4.5. Enclosed burials .....	82
6.4.6. Other.....	82
6.5. Burial position.....	82
6.5.1. Extended inhumations .....	82
6.5.2. Crouched and flexed inhumations .....	83
6.5.3. Other positions .....	84
6.6. Orientation.....	84
6.7. Facing direction.....	85
6.8. Burial accompaniments.....	86
6.8.1. Animal bone .....	87
6.8.2. Pottery .....	87
6.8.3. Personal ornaments.....	87
6.8.4. Metalwork and weapons.....	88
6.8.5. Multiple associated goods/remains .....	88
6.8.6. Material in other fills .....	89
6.8.7. Other.....	90
6.9. Age .....	90
6.9.1. Age and burial context.....	92
6.9.2. Age and burial position.....	92

6.9.3. Age and grave goods .....	92
6.9.4. Age and sex .....	94
6.10. Sex .....	94
6.10.1. Sex and location .....	94
6.10.2. Sex and site / burial context .....	94
6.10.3. Sex and position / orientation .....	94
6.10.4. Sex and grave goods .....	96
6.11. Conclusion .....	96
6.12. Iron Age —imprecisely dated .....	99
<b>7. Articulated Human Skeletal Deposits .....</b>	<b>101</b>
7.1. Introduction .....	101
7.2. Deposit demographics .....	101
7.3. Represented elements .....	101
7.4. Interpretation of depositional practices .....	104
7.4.1. Inhumations .....	104
7.4.2. Body bundles / secondary / tertiary inhumations .....	106
7.4.3. Articulated body parts .....	108
7.4.4. Bundles of bones (token deposits) .....	108
7.4.5. Victims of conflict and violent deposits .....	110
7.4.6. Bone spreads .....	110
7.5. Conclusion .....	111
<b>8. Disarticulated Remains and Macroscopic Taphonomy .....</b>	<b>113</b>
8.1. Introduction and aims .....	113
8.2. The data .....	113
8.3. Feature type .....	116
8.4. Represented elements .....	117
8.5. Age .....	120
8.6. Sex .....	122
8.7. Side .....	122
8.8. Associated material .....	123
8.9. Taphonomy .....	123
8.10. Natural modifications .....	124
8.10.1. Weathering .....	124
8.10.2. Trampling .....	125
8.10.3. Gnawing .....	125
8.11. Human modifications .....	126
8.11.1. Cut/saw marks .....	126
8.11.2. Chop marks .....	128
8.11.3. Fractures .....	129
8.11.4. Abrasion / polish .....	129
8.11.5. Perforated bone .....	130
8.11.6. Worked bone objects .....	131
8.12. Conclusion .....	132
<b>9. Demography, Health, and Trauma .....</b>	<b>135</b>
9.1. Introduction .....	135
9.2. Age .....	135
9.3. Sex .....	137
9.3.1. Age and sex compared .....	138
9.4. Stature .....	138
9.5. Pathology .....	141
9.5.1. Trauma .....	141
9.5.2. Degenerative pathologies .....	151
9.5.3. Nutrition/health-related conditions .....	153
9.5.4. Infection and Disease .....	154
9.5.5. Other pathologies .....	155

9.6. Oral health.....	155
9.6.1. Antemortem tooth loss .....	155
9.6.2. Calculus.....	156
9.6.3. Caries.....	157
9.6.4. Linear enamel hypoplasia.....	157
9.6.5. Periodontal disease.....	157
9.6.6. Periapical cavities / abscesses .....	158
9.6.7. Third hand use .....	160
9.6.8. Other .....	160
9.7. Conclusion.....	160
<b>10. Discussion.....</b>	<b>163</b>
10.1. Introduction.....	163
10.2. Population demography .....	163
10.3. Chronological change.....	163
10.3.1. The LBA–EIA transition .....	163
10.3.2. EIA–LIA consistencies and changes .....	165
10.3.3. The inhumation increase .....	166
10.4. Health, sickness and violence .....	167
10.4.1. Nutrition, care and support.....	167
10.4.2. Violence in life and death.....	168
10.5. Interpreting pit burials.....	170
10.5.1. Pit burial as a normative rite.....	170
10.5.2. Pit burials as sacrifices .....	171
10.5.3 Pit burials as social transgressors .....	172
10.6. Other notable inhumation patterns .....	173
10.6.1. Interpreting ditch burials .....	173
10.6.2. Barrow burials .....	174
10.6.3. Animals and people .....	175
10.6.4. Burials with stones .....	177
10.7. Discerning excarnation/disarticulation sequences .....	177
10.7.1. Exposure in hillforts .....	178
10.7.2. Alternative disarticulation pathways .....	179
10.8. The ‘invisible dead’ —where are they?.....	181
10.8.1. Cremation after excarnation .....	182
10.8.2. Deposition in water .....	182
10.9. The importance of skulls .....	183
10.9.1. Bone working —amulets and bowls .....	184
10.9.2. Complete skulls —display and denigration.....	185
10.9.3. Bone or flesh.....	186
10.10. Summary .....	186
<b>11. Conclusion.....</b>	<b>187</b>
11.1. Introduction .....	187
11.2. Findings and contribution.....	187
11.3. Limitations .....	188
11.4. Further research directions .....	189
11.5. Final Summary .....	190
<b>12. Bibliography .....</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>13. Appendix 1 — Raw datasheets for all data can be accessed online using the following dois .....</b>	<b>211</b>
<a href="https://doi.org/10.30861/9781407360232/datasheet1">https://doi.org/10.30861/9781407360232/datasheet1</a>	
<a href="https://doi.org/10.30861/9781407360232/datasheet2">https://doi.org/10.30861/9781407360232/datasheet2</a>	
<a href="https://doi.org/10.30861/9781407360232/datasheet3">https://doi.org/10.30861/9781407360232/datasheet3</a>	
<b>14. Appendix 2 — Data summary for bone groups and bundles.....</b>	<b>213</b>
A2.1. Cambridgeshire .....	213

A2.2. Bedfordshire .....	216
A2.3. Norfolk .....	216
A2.4. Suffolk .....	216
A2.5. Kent .....	217
A2.6. Unusable examples.....	218
<b>15. Appendix 3 — Excluded inhumations.....</b>	<b>221</b>
A3.1. Introduction .....	221
A3.2. Securely Iron Age inhumations with insufficient recording.....	221
A3.3. Questionably dated inhumations, and those with poorer recorded information .....	222
A3.4. Empty graves.....	224